



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Fire Management Program Center
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

IN REPLY REFER TO:
March 10, 2005

**** ELECTRONIC VERSION – NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW ****

Memorandum

To: Regional Fire Management Officers
From: National Fire Management Officer, Sue Vap
Subject: Fire Occurrence Reporting Conversion to the Bureau of Land Management System

The conversion to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire occurrence reporting program is in the final stages of testing and verification of data. The new BLM program is called the Wildland Fire Management Information system (WFMI). The latest estimate of when the conversion to the WFMI system becomes complete is May 24, 2005. Prior to the conversion, the Fire Occurrence Program in SACS will be shut down starting May 4, 2005 while the final data integration is completed and verifications made in the WFMI system. All new fire reports will be entered in the WFMI system after May 24, 2005. These are tentative dates for now depending on the number of errors to be corrected during the conversion.

The WFMI system is a web-based system that can be accessed through the internet. There are currently three interagency modules and one BLM specific module on WFMI. The interagency modules are Weather, Lightning Detection, and Fire Reporting. Shortly, NPS will have an agreement in place for all FIREPRO Parks to have access to the Lightning Detection Module in the WFMI system. NPS personnel with access to the Fire Reporting program will be able to access the Weather program as well. The Lightning Detection Module requires additional access rights.

User guides, Instruction Memorandums, and field help screens will be contained within the program. There will also be fire report templates that can be printed and used for field entry. For each fire type, the printed report will have shaded fields indicating non-mandatory entry fields. Most fields, where possible, will have drop down boxes with multiple choices listed. All fields will have a help screen with definitions and/or directions for each choice. The BLM will provide a Help Desk phone number for initiating requests and assistance to initially log onto the WFMI system. Questions about the fire reporting fields need to be directed to Dale Miracle.

Before conversion to the new BLM Fire Reporting program, individual access user names and passwords will need to be issued to those employees whom regularly need access to the fire reporting system. Attached are two spreadsheets, one indicating the NPS employees we have entered as SACS users. The second spreadsheet lists the NPS employees whom have access to the WFMI system for the Lightning and Weather modules. Please review both lists for accuracy and access updates.

Each Region needs to review the two lists and verify those people that need access to the WFMI system. Add or delete users as necessary. Also review the access rights for each person and indicate that person's need for lightning detection access. There will not be an option to give park-wide user names and passwords for security reasons. Please provide Dale Miracle the revised list of the employees that need WFMI access by March 30, 2005.

For employees who do not already have access to WFMI, BLM is requiring a request form be filled out with a Fire manager's signature for the appropriate access rights. BLM's General Rules and Guidelines must be read before signing the request form. The request form and the BLM's General Rules and Guidelines are also attached.

Access choices within the Fire Reporting Module are to view only, edit, or export.

- View-only access allow the user to view all fire reports within the NPS plus have the ability to get other specialized reports contained within the system for NPS.
- Edit access allows the user to enter and edit reports for the parks indicated. They can also view-only all reports for other parks within the NPS as well as get other specialized reports contained within the system for NPS. For users that enter reports for other parks, please specify the parks needing edit rights on the form. For regional users that need edit access for all parks in their region, enter name of region under "Reporting Unit". For dispatch personnel that enter reports for either the BLM or BIA, special permission needs to be obtained from that bureau. That Bureau's fire manager also needs to sign the form under Responsible Official in addition to the NPS official.
- Export access is for users who regularly need raw data for statistical purposes or troubleshooting the program. At this time, only national program managers and national information technology personnel need this access.

Lightning Detection access will be available to NPS users when a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed. Indicate on the revised spreadsheet, which users within the FIREPRO parks need this access. At this time, lightning detection capability is limited to the contiguous United States. This access is only for wildland fire applications. On the request form, users can indicate an interest for Lightning Detection access.

Please have all users send the filled-out request form to Dale Miracle. The request forms will be compared to the lists each Regional Fire Management Officer (RFMO) provides for approval. The approved request forms will be forwarded to BLM for implementation. The list does not have to be complete as there will be opportunities to add users after the new system is on-line.

As we get closer to the conversion time, there will be additional instructions for logging on and access to the WFMI system. For additional information, contact Dale Miracle at 208-387-5212.

Attachments:

Spreadsheet of current SACS users
Spreadsheet of current WFMI users
BLM Request Form
BLM's General Rules and Guidelines